

part in the construction of numerous strong-motion seismographs which were made for the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. These instruments were used extensively during atomic testing in Nevada.

Mr. Lehman is survived by his widow, Lucy, and a son, Edgar, both of San Francisco.

#### VISITORS FROM JAPAN

EIGHT LEADING JAPANESE SCIENCE WRITERS, representing the largest news, magazine, radio, and TV organizations in Japan, were guests of the Academy during their visit to San Francisco, the last stop on a nation-wide tour of the United States. Their trip was sponsored by the Japan Newspaper Publishers and Editors Association with a grant from the Asia Foundation, the purpose being to acquaint themselves with American science-writing techniques.

After a tour of the Academy, conducted by Dr. Robert C. Miller, and attendance at a performance in the Morrison Planetarium, the group spent an entire evening watching the preparation and production of a program for "Science in Action" at KRON studios.

#### ANCHOVIES ANYONE?

THOUSANDS OF ANCHOVIES, numerous enough to be placed in three separate aquaria, have taken up residence in Steinhart Aquarium and present a spectacle seldom seen by other than skin-divers. The silver-sided fish will be used not only for display, but for further experimentation in the effects of electric currents on fish, an extensive project in which the Academy research biologist, Anatole Loukashkin, has long been engaged.

Other new arrivals include some angry-looking barracuda, the first to be on display at Steinhart in many years. The California Department of Fish and Game's research ship, *M. V. Alaska*, delivered these new additions direct from Southern California waters.

#### DR. ORR TO WASHINGTON

THE ACADEMY'S Dr. Robert T. Orr, Curator of Birds and Mammals, attended the 39th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists, of which he is President. The meeting was held at the United States National Museum in Washington, D. C., from June 21-25.

#### NEW MEMBERS

NEW MEMBERS who joined the Academy last month are:

##### REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Richard H. Boede  
Mr. Guthrie Burt  
Mr. S. H. Palmer  
Mrs. Gene Sagan  
Mr. Robert S. Spencer  
Miss Helene Steuer  
Dr. Henry O. Trowbridge

Dr. George E. Wells  
Mrs. Ruth M. White

##### STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Richard Cavestri  
James Evicson  
Douglas Lazo  
Roger Levin  
Joyce Linneman

Fred Maxemin

Joe Morales  
Sandra Whiting

##### FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Anthony W. Bernhard  
Mr. Thomas T. Gerughty  
Mr. Richard Le Clert  
Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Wheeler

# ACADEMY NEWS LETTER

NUMBER 235

JULY 1959

## July Announcement

THE REGULAR JULY MEETING of the California Academy of Sciences will be held at 8:15 P. M., Monday, July 20, in the May Treat Morrison Auditorium. Professor Lloyd C. Ingles, Head, Division of Life Sciences, Department of Biology, Fresno State College, will present a 16 mm. color film and commentary entitled:

### "LOTS OF FEATHERS AND SOME FUR"

DR. INGLES' ACTIVITIES in field mammalogy and mammalian research, coupled with a fine talent for photography, have resulted in many excellent films for which he is solely responsible. The film which he will present to interested Academy members lasts approximately 60 minutes and is the product of many years of effort on Dr. Ingles' part. It deals with the mammals and birds of California, and the interesting adaptations which they have made, both structural and behavioral, which have fitted them into the various habitats and different communities of the State, ranging from the interior valley floors to the top of the Sierra Nevada.

Such species as gray squirrels, acorn woodpeckers and Audubon cottontails are shown living in their native habitats in the Sacramento Valley. In the foothill woodland there are gray foxes, raccoons, and skunks who were photographed as they made nightly raids on places where bait was laid. Higher up in the mountains of the red fir forest, the film presents such unusual segments as the cone-storing of chickarees, the nests of pileated and white-headed woodpeckers, and the courting of blue grouse. Farther up, near the timberline, a sequence shows a long-tailed weasel killing a white-footed mouse. Yellow-bellied marmot and pika of the community have also been captured on film.

Dr. Ingles is the author of numerous articles which have appeared in various scientific and popular publications. His book, "Mammals of California" for which he supplied the major share of the photographs and which is published by the Stanford University Press, is well-known to countless readers.

He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the California Academy of Sciences.

*Published Monthly by*

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

GOLDEN GATE PARK • SAN FRANCISCO 18



# CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

GOLDEN GATE PARK • SAN FRANCISCO

1 1 1

EDWARD WINSLOW GIFFORD

1887-1959



THE DEATH of Professor E. W. Gifford on May 16, 1959, brought to an end a distinguished career of scholarship and research, and a connection with the California Academy of Sciences which spanned a period of 55 years.

Edward Gifford was born in Oakland, California, August 14, 1887, and was educated in the Oakland public schools. In 1904, at the age of 17, he was employed as an assistant in the Department of Ornithology of the California Academy of Sciences, and showed such aptitude for this line of work that in 1907 he was appointed Assistant Curator of that Department, a post he held until 1912.

He was a member of the famous 1905-1906 expedition to the Galapagos Islands aboard the schooner *Academy*, an expedition which spent a year in residence in the islands and accumulated a collection of Galapagos animals and plants that is unequalled anywhere. The published results of that expedition occupied well over 2,000 pages in the scientific literature over a period of years, and established the California Academy as a leading center of research on the Galapagos flora and fauna.

As a result of his participation in that expedition, Gifford published two volumes on Galapagos birds. He was the first to report that the Pallid Tree Finch, when unable to reach an insect deep in a crevice in the bark of a tree, will take a twig in its beak to probe out the reluctant victim. This use of a tool by a bird was regarded as well-nigh incredible, and not a few people thought that the eighteen-year-old ornithologist had been imagining things. But in 1940 David Lack obtained motion pictures of the bird using a twig, which completely vindicated Gifford's account.

In 1912 Gifford left the employ of the Academy to become Assistant Curator of the Museum of Anthropology of the University of California, and rose through successive promotions to become Curator of that important museum.

His initial appointment in the University was due to his knowledge of museum methods and his meticulous care in cataloging and handling specimens. But it presently became evident that his scholarly attainments would be of benefit to students, and in 1920 he was appointed Lecturer in Anthropology. After 18 years as a lecturer, during which his status as a teacher and investigator steadily grew, in 1938 he was appointed Associate Professor, and in 1945 Professor of Anthropology. Thus he became one of the very few men of this century to hold a professorship in a major university without ever having gone to college—a distinction he shares with the late Professor Charles Schuchert of Yale.

Professor Gifford's contributions to anthropology are so well known, and will be so widely reported elsewhere, that it seems best in this brief biographical sketch to concentrate on those aspects of his career that are less known. As a hobby (for a museum man, this sounds like a postman's holiday), he collected shells, specializing in the family Olividae. In 1955, he and his wife donated to the Academy their large and important collection of this family from various parts of the world.

Professor Gifford honored the Academy, which first employed him and with which he was closely connected through the remainder of his life. The Academy in turn honored him, with election to Fellowship in 1952 and to Honorary Membership in 1954.

Honorary Membership is the highest award the Academy bestows; but Edward Gifford in a way received a higher recognition. When he retired from the University of California in 1955, he was offered an honorary curatorship in the California Academy of Sciences, in any one of three fields—ornithology (in which he started his career), anthropology (in which he attained his major success), and malacology (which was his hobby).

Other men have occasionally been competent in two fields. The late Bashford Dean was, for example, simultaneously Curator of Fishes in the American Museum of Natural History and Curator of Armor in the Metropolitan Museum of Art. But Edward Gifford was possibly the only man to be offered his choice of an honorary curatorship in three different fields, in each of which he was fully competent. He elected anthropology, and at the time of his death he was Professor of Anthropology, Emeritus, in the University of California, and Honorary Curator of Anthropology in the California Academy of Sciences.

Finally, this writer, who knew him well, cannot refrain from saying that he was—above all—a gentle, thoughtful, and just plain lovable man. —R. C. M.

FRED C. LEHMAN

THE SUDDEN DEATH on June 3, 1959, of Fred C. Lehman, a highly valued and popular member of the Academy's staff, has created a loss which is considered immeasurable by those who worked with him. As a precision-instrument maker, Mr. Lehman was first employed by the Academy in January, 1951. In the ensuing period, he proved himself to be a craftsman of the highest order. Among his many fine contributions to the reputation of the Academy was an important